Symbolism Notes

Symbolism is used in writing to offer another layer of meaning to the text. By using symbols in their writing, authors can add to the mood or theme by simply placing the story in a particular setting, giving character or place a particular name or by having character perform certain actions. For example, the dove has traditionally been used to symbolize peace. If an author wants to emphasis the importance of peace in a section of writing or a story, they may include a dove somewhere in their writing.

**Can be used as symbols in writing;**

1. Names
2. Objects
3. Actions

**Example;** *After years of fighting and killing, the two armies*

*met on a battle scared field to talk about a truce. As*

*the two leaders shook hands, a small white* ***dove*** *could*

*be seen in the sky.*

Suggestions for identifying literary symbols;

1. The story provides a clue that a particular detail is a symbol, either through emphasis, repetition or position.
2. A symbol must be supported by the entire context of the story. ie: Stick figures of children in the **“Blair Witch Project”** symbolize the death of local kids at the hands of a “psycho”.
3. To be called a symbol, an item must suggest a meaning different from its literal meaning. ie: doves symbolize peace or love, not just fat white birds.🕊🕊